

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TO THE

MADRON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR 1900.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report for the year 1900.

Inspection of the District: House Accommodation, &c.

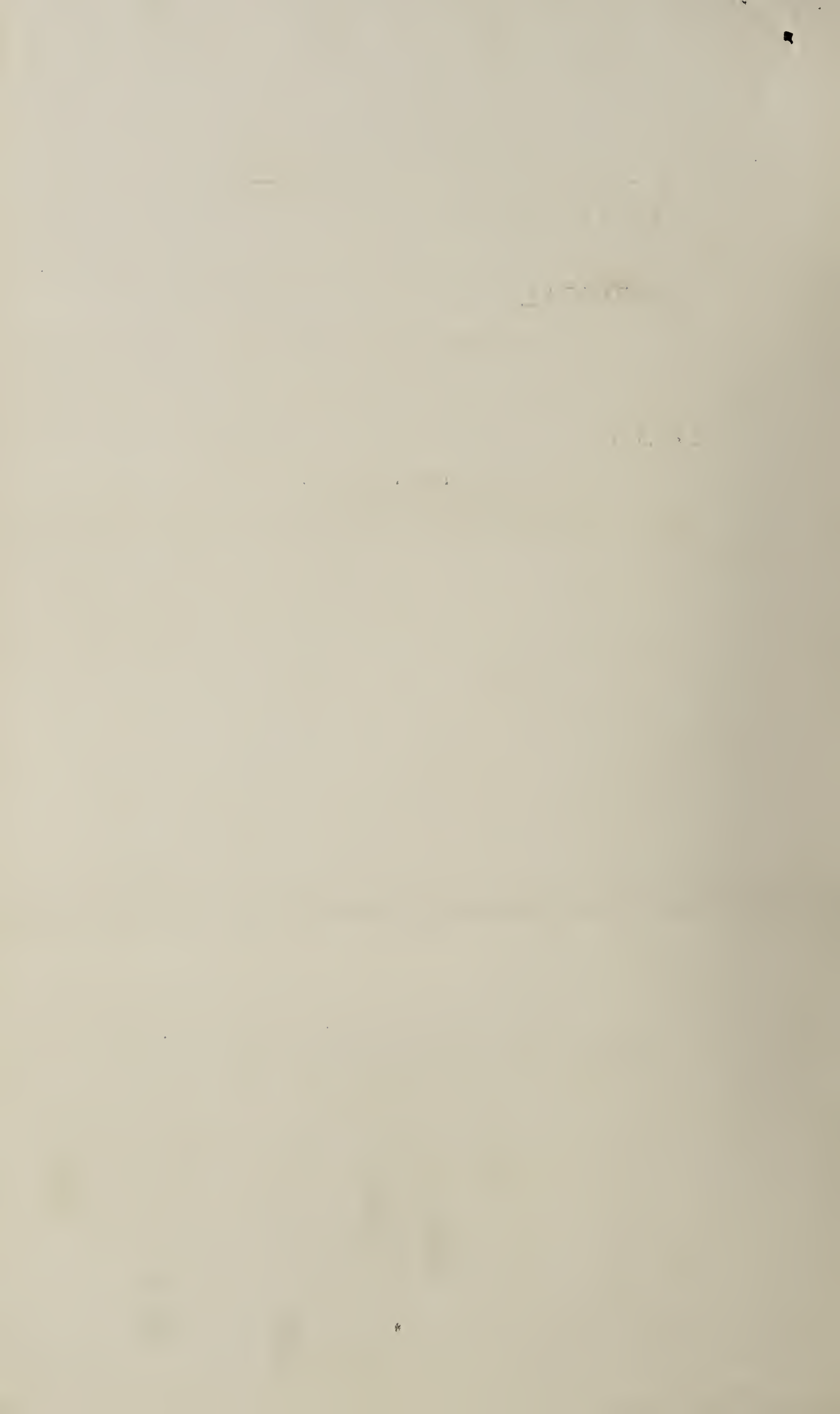
During the year I have periodically inspected all parts of the district. 14 houses have been repaired at Heamoor, and 10 cesspits converted into pail-closets in the same locality. A water-closet was substituted for a privy at Wherrytown. Pigs were removed from a sty at Rosecadghill, being too near to a dwelling house. One cottage and 6 privies were built within the district. No cases of overcrowding were ascertained.

Poolfield's Row and Jamaica Row, Heamoor.

Particular attention has been given to some of the older dwellings at Heamoor, and I have, in company of the Sanitary Inspector, made a house to house visitation of Poolfield's Row and Jamaica Row. The property in both places is old, and many houses need repair. I did not see any houses which I regard as absolutely uninhabitable, but many are on the way to reach that stage unless necessary renovations be made. The launders and down-pipes are very deficient, and the walls (especially of down-stair sitting-rooms) are thereby rendered damp. In one case (at No. 3, Jamaica Row), water from the roof flows into the passage of the house and drains into the earth through a break in the concrete. At 10, Jamaica Row, the roof leaks into the front bedroom. In some cases floors and ceilings are defective, and in two cases at least the stair-ways are unsafe. Many windows of rooms cannot be opened, rendering the interiors stuffy.

The cesspits in the back-courts are very objectionable. They are roughly scooped out and used also as receptacles of vegetable refuse. Many of the covers are defective and most of the closet-chambers are unventilated. In one case the door was off its hinges at the time of my visit, and in others the wood-work rotten.

At 9, ~~Poolfield's~~ Row, there is a stable at the back, unventilated and undrained.



On visiting 4 Jamaica Row, we found that an interior room was being used as a fowl's house in addition to others, ill-kept, in the court, and that the yard was very filthy. The nuisances at this particular house have since been abated.

Provided that your Authority intends shortly laying on water to the houses at Heamoor and sewerage the locality, these cesspits should be converted into water-closets. In the absence of these conditions pail-closets should be substituted.

Tolcarne Stream and Millpool, Heamoor.

I have noted with pleasure during the year a higher condition of cleanliness of the Tolcarne stream. It is however high time that sewage was diverted from its bed.

The Millpool, Heamoor, has at times shown considerable pollution by refuse.

School Cesspits.

At Madron and Heamoor Schools the cesspits appear to be cleared irregularly and sometimes only at long intervals. At Heamoor they are certainly too close to the school. In any case the system is unhealthy and should not be suffered in places on and near which so many children of a susceptible age congregate during many hours of the day. Moreover it has irremediable danger in time of epidemic. In the absence of water-supply and sewerage, pail-closets should be substituted.

Drainage and Water Supply.

I couple these together, because in your schemes for Heamoor and for Tolcarne it is imperative that you should consider them in their relations to each other. Sewers must be properly flushed, and water supplied for domestic purposes must be afterwards taken to a proper destination. In particular, water-closets must not be established in the absence of a constantly reliable flush-power by water laid on directly to the houses of the inhabitants and of a complete system of sewerage. In the absence of these a pail-system and laborious removal in covered cart is the alternative you will have to face. I hope however that you will be satisfied with nothing short of the immediate placing in hand of complete schemes for the water-supply and sewerage of Heamoor and Tolcarne.

During the year piping has been done at Madron Well and at the well at Tremethick Cross in order to prevent pollution of these water-supplies. The latter well was also cleared out.

The settling tank over the sewer at Chyandour was repaired, and the sewer cleared.

Bake-houses, Slaughter-houses, Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

I recommend the immediate registration and regular periodic inspection of these.

Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts.

I understand that no samples were taken by your Authority during the year, under these Acts. I recommend an occasional analysis of milk.

Reports during the Year.

No special report at my hands has been called for by the Local Government Board during the year. Monthly reports of sickness and deaths have been regularly supplied to your Authority and to the Cornwall County Council.

Vital Statistics of 1900.

During the year 100 births (46 male, 54 female), and 76 deaths (38 of each sex) were registered, giving a natural increase of 24 persons, and birth and death-rates of 33.48 and 25.55 respectively. Both rates are lower than in either of the preceeding 2 years.

Workhouse.

Of these, 10 births (3 male, 7 female) and 22 deaths (11 of each sex) took place within the Workhouse. Of the deaths 3 were of infants in the first year of age, one at 12 months from pneumonia, 8 of persons between 25 and 65 years of age (one from Gastritis, 2 from Heart Disease, 1 from Pneumonia, 1 from Cancer), and 10 at higher ages (2 from Heart Disease).

One of the deaths from Heart Disease was that of a male, belonging to Madron, at 63 years. The others were of persons non-resident in the district.

No Zymotic sickness or Zymotic deaths were reported at the Workhouse during the year.

Residents.

The corrected list of births of residents amounts to 90 (43 male, 47 female), giving a corrected birth-rate of 30.25 per 1000 per annum.

The corrected list of deaths of residents amounts to 56 (29 males, 27 females), giving a corrected death-rate of 18.82 per 1000 per annum, and a natural increase of 34 persons (14 males 20 female). Having regard to the growth of Heamoor and Tolcarne since the last census, it is probable that the real rates are somewhat lower than these. The Infantile mortality among residents stands at the satisfactory low figure of 88.88 per 1000 births. The Zymotic death-rate is low—.672,—and is based on 2 deaths, one from Diarrhœa in the first year of life, one from Membranous croup under 5 years of age.

Deaths at the Age Periods.

The deaths of residents, arranged in age-periods are :

All ages.	0—1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—65	65 upwards.
56	8	3	1	3	17	24

Of the deaths under 1 year of age, 1 took place from Diarrhœa, 2 from Broncho-pneumonia, and one from Tubercular disease.

Of the deaths between 1 and 5, one was from Membranous Croup, 1 from Pneumonia.

The death between 5 and 15 was from Enteritis.

Of the deaths between 15 and 25, 1 was from Enteritis, 1 from Phthisis.

Of the deaths between 25 and 65, 1 was from Influenza, 1 from Cancer, 4 from Phthisis, 1 from Bronchitis, 1 from Pleurisy, and 4 from Heart Disease. One of the deaths from Heart Disease took place in the West Cornwall Infirmary at Penzance.



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Of the deaths at 65 years of age and over, 3 were from Cancer, 2 from Bronchitis, 1 from Pneumonia, 4 from Heart Disease.

Causes of Death.

Deaths of residents, tabled under various causes, are :—

	Membranous Croup.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea.	Enteritis.	Phthisis.	Ordinary Respiratory Disease.	Heart Disease.	Cancer.
(1900)	1 ...	1 ...	1 ...	2 ...	5 ...	8 ...	8 ...	4
(1899)	0 ...	3 ...	3	3	9 ...	9 ...	7 ...	2

The death-rate from Phthisis—1.68—is not excessive, and is an improvement on last year's rate.

The respiratory death-rate—2.69—is low.

The death-rate from Heart Disease—2.69—is high.

The Cancer death-rate—1.35—is high.

Notifiable Diseases.

In addition to the fatal case of Membranous Croup, two cases of Erysipelas and one of Scarlatina were notified within the district during the year. These give a disease-rate of 1.35 per 1000 per annum.

Vaccination.

Vaccination would appear to have been freely administered during the year.

Accommodation for Infectious Diseases.

I would remind your Authority that, except in the case of inmates of the Workhouse, we are without Hospital accommodation for cases of Infectious disease. Nor have we any Disinfecting Apparatus.

I am, Gentlemen,

Faithfully Yours,

RICHARD DAVEY BOASE,

M.O.H., MADRON.

5, MORRAB ROAD,
PENZANCE,

January 22nd, 1901.

